

Tale
17

The
Woman
with Only
a Face



ONE DAY, A MAN HAD
A PERSONAL CELE-
BRATION TO ATTEND, SO
HE WENT TO A GEISHA
CALL-OFFICE TO ORDER
ONE. HOWEVER, HE HAD
BAD TIMING, FOR ALL
OF THE GEISHA WERE
SOLD OUT FOR THE DAY.



ON HIS
WAY HOME,
HE SPOTTED
A BEAUTIFUL
GEISHA AT A
CROSSROAD.

THIS IS
A STORY
I HEARD
FROM AN
IWAMI
NATIVE.





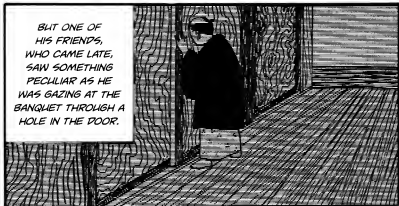
HE
IMMEDIATELY
SPOKE WITH
HER, AND SHE
ACCOMPANIED
HIM,

ALLOWING
HIM TO
START THE
BANQUET
AS HE HAD
PLANNED.

THANKS TO THE
BEAUTIFUL GEISHA,
THE BANQUET WAS A
GREAT SUCCESS, AND
THE MAN AND ALL
HIS GUESTS WERE
VERY PLEASED.



BUT ONE OF
HIS FRIENDS,
WHO CAME LATE,
SAW SOMETHING
PECULIAR AS HE
WAS GAZING AT THE
BANQUET THROUGH A
HOLE IN THE DOOR.





NO MATTER
HOW MANY TIMES
HE CHECKED, IT
APPEARED AS IF THE
BEAUTIFUL GEISHA
ONLY HAD A FACE,
AND NO BODY.

AS THEY
SANG, LAUGHED
AND DANCED,
THERE WAS A
WOMAN'S FACE
FLOATING IN THE
CENTER OF
THE GROUP.



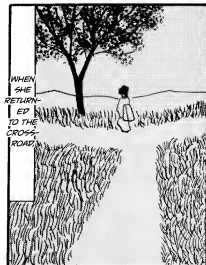
AND WHEN
HE LOOKED BACK
AT HER, THAT WAS
EXACTLY WHAT HE
SAW, LEAVING HIM
LITTERLY BAFFLED.



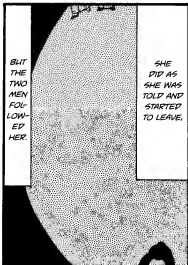
THE MAN'S
FRIEND TOLD
THIS TO HIM,



WHEN IT GOT LATE
AND THE GUESTS
STARTED TO LEAVE,
THE MAN TOLD
THE WOMAN TO GO
HOME AS WELL.

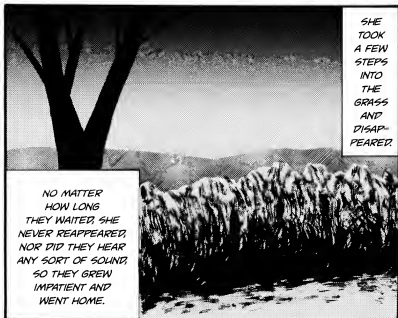


WHEN
SHE
RETURN-
ED
TO THE
CROSS-
ROAD.



BUT
THE
TWO
MEN
FOL-
LOW-
ED
HER.

SHE
DID AS
SHE WAS
TOLD AND
STARTED
TO LEAVE.



SHE
TOOK
A FEW
STEPS
INTO
THE
GRASS
AND
DISAP-
PEARED.

NO MATTER
HOW LONG
THEY WAITED, SHE
NEVER REAPPEARED,
NOR DID THEY HEAR
ANY SORT OF SOUND,
SO THEY GREW
IMPATIENT AND
WENT HOME.



WHEN
THEY
BURNED
IT, IT
SMELLED
LIKE
BURNING
HAIR.

WHEN THEY
RETURNED
TO THE SAME
SPOT THE NEXT
MORNING, THEY
FOUND AN
OLD LADLE
HALF-BURIED
IN THE
GROUND